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## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA

| IN RE:                  | CHAPTER 7<br>CASE NO. 20-00305 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| SIMPLY ESSENTIALS, LLC, |                                |
| Debtor.                 |                                |

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING ON TRUSTEE'S MOTION TO SELL AND FOR OTHER RELIEF (11 U.S.C. §§363(b) AND (f))

AND SUPPLEMENT THERETO;

MOTION TO APPROVE BID;

NOTICE OF HEARING ON SAID MOTIONS;

NOTICE OF BAR DATE FOR OBJECTIONS

#### TO ALL CREDITORS AND PARTIES IN INTEREST:

NOTICE IS GIVEN that Trustee Larry S. Eide has filed a Motion to Sell and For Other Relief (11 U.S.C. §§363(b) and (f)), pertaining to the sale of the Debtor's real estate locally known as 901 N. Main Street, Charles City, Floyd County, Iowa, and 300 Lawler Street, Charles City, Floyd County, Iowa, and all of the tangible personal property located therein (but NOT including any rolling stock), and certain intellectual property and intangible property, a Supplement to said Motion, and a Motion to Approve Bid in the amount of \$9,500,000.00 received from International Poultry Breeders, L.L.C., d/b/a The Best Dressed Chicken.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a copy of the Motion to Sell (with all Exhibits) can obtained from the undersigned or from the Office of the Clerk of this Court.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a copy of the Trustee's Motion to Approve Bid; Supplement to Trustee's Motion to Sell and For Other Relief (11 U.S.C. §§363(b) and (f)) is attached hereto.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that objections to the Trustee's Motion to Sell and/or the Trustee's Motion to Approve Bid shall be filed with the Clerk of this Court, at either of the following addresses:

United States Bankruptcy Court Northern District of Iowa Clerk's Office 111 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Box 15 Cedar Rapids, IA 52401-2101 United States Bankruptcy Court Northern District of Iowa Clerk's Office, Federal Building 320 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 126 Sioux City, IA 51101 with a copy to the Trustee, attorneys for the prospective purchaser International Poultry Breeders, L.L.C., d/b/a The Best Dressed Chicken, and the United States Trustee at the addresses shown below, **no later than September 3, 2021**.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said Motions and timely-filed objections, if any, will come before the Court and be heard <u>at 1:30 p.m. CDT on September 9, 2021</u>, in the Bankruptcy Court Room, First Floor, United States Courthouse, 320 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Sioux City, Iowa.

If no objection is filed, the appropriate order will be entered.

Dated: August 13, 2021.

/s/ Larry S. Eide

Larry S. Eide, Trustee PO Box 1588

Mason City, IA 50402-1588 Telephone: 641.423.4264 Facsimile: 641.423.3145

Email: eide@pappajohnlaw.com

**Chapter 7 Trustee:** 

Larry S. Eide, Trustee PO Box 1588 Mason City, IA 50402-1588

**United States Trustee:** 

Office of United States Trustee United States Federal Courthouse 111 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Box 17 Cedar Rapids, IA 52401-2101 Attorneys for International Poultry Breeders, L.L.C., d/b/a The Best Dressed Chicken

Thomas L. Flynn Brick Gentry, P.C. 6701 Westown Parkway, Suite 100 West Des Moines, IA 50266

I hereby certify that a copy of this document and all enclosures, were mailed the date indicated below, to all creditors and parties in interest herein as required by the Bankruptcy Code and Rules, per attached list.

DATED: June 18, 2021. /s/ Larry S. Eide

Larry S. Eide (AT0002317)

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## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA

| IN RE:                  | CHAPTER 7         |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
|                         | CASE NO. 20-00305 |
| SIMPLY ESSENTIALS, LLC, |                   |
| Debtor(s).              |                   |

# TRUSTEE'S MOTION TO APPROVE BID; SUPPLEMENT TO TRUSTEE'S MOTION TO SELL AND FOR OTHER RELIEF (11 U.S.C. §§363(b) AND (f));

COMES NOW Chapter 7 Trustee Larry S. Eide and moves the Court for an order granting this Motion, and in support thereof respectively states:

- 1. On June 22, 2021, the Trustee filed a Motion to Sell and For Other Relief 11 U.S.C. §§363(b) and (f); Motion to Approve Bid Procedures (hereinafter called the "Motion to Sell") whereby the Trustee sought approval of this Court to sell the Assets (as defined in the Motion to Sell) pursuant to a written bid in the amount of \$9,500,000.00 received from Pure Prairie Farms, Inc. (hereinafter called "Pure Prairie"), or in the event of a timely filed objection, the approval of bidding procedures.
- 2. This document is a supplement to the Motion to Sell and a request to approve a bid in the amount of \$9,500,000.00 received by the Trustee from International Poultry Breeders, L.L.C., d/b/a The Best Dressed Chicken at the auction held on August 11, 2021, all as provided in the Order Approving Bid Procedures.
- 3. After notice of the Motion to Sell was provided to creditors and parties in interest, several objections to the Motion were filed, including an Objection filed by Wincorp International, Inc. (hereinafter called "Wincorp"), on behalf of its affiliate The Best Dressed Chicken (Doc No. 124).

- 4. On July 14, 2021, Wincorp filed a Supplement to Objection to Trustee's Motion to Sell (Doc. No. 131) and designated International Poultry Breeders, L.L.C., d/b/a The Best Dressed Chicken (hereinafter called "IPB") as its affiliate for the purposes of its Objection and as the proposed purchaser of the Assets.
- 5. Paragraph 27(c) of the Trustee's Motion to Sell filed on June 22, 2021, provides:

All parties desirous of participating in the additional bid process, including Pure Prairie Farms, Inc., must provide the Trustee and Heritage with evidence of an ability and the financial wherewithal, as determined solely by the Trustee, to consummate the sale transaction no later than 5:00 p.m. CDT on the fourth business day after the conclusion of the telephonic hearing on this Motion at which the bid procedures are approved;

- 6. On July 16, 2021, a hearing was held on the Motion to Sell and thereafter on July 22, 2021, the Court entered an Order Approving Bid Procedures (Doc. No. 142) which set forth specific actions and specific dates that such actions must be completed by all parties in order to participate in an auction of the Assets, including the making of an opening bid.
- 7. The provisions of Paragraph 27(c) of the Trustee's Motion to Sell were included in the Order Approving Bid Procedures.
- 8. On August 3, 2021, the Trustee timely received a \$500,000.00 cash deposit on behalf of IPB.
- 9. The deadline for all parties, including Pure Prairie, to provide the Trustee with evidence of an ability and the financial wherewithal to consummate the sale transaction was August 9, 2021.

- 10. On August 9, 2021, the Trustee timely received confirmation of IPB's financial wherewithal to consummate the sale transaction.
- 11. At 3:07 PM on August 9, 2021, the Trustee received an email from the attorney for Pure Prairie stating, *inter alia*:

that in light of the overbid of The Best Dressed Chicken, Pure Prairie will not be participating in further bidding. I believe that holding an auction is no longer necessary under those circumstances, and I wish you well in closing the sale with Best Dressed.

- 12. After receipt of the email described in Paragraph 11, the Trustee's brokers had numerous conversations with the representatives of Pure Prairie and attempted to contact Pure Prairie additional times without success, with the communications and attempted communications continuing all the way up until shortly before the commencement of the telephone auction.
- 13. Pure Prairie did not request to participate in the auction and did not participate in the auction.
- 14. The Objection filed by Wincorp (Doc. No. 124) on behalf of The Best Dressed Chicken (now IPB as described in the Supplement filed July 14, 2021 (Doc. No. 131)) to the Trustee's Motion to Sell states:

In the event that Pure Prairie Farms, Inc. (PPFI) satisfies the Trustee that it has the ability and the financial wherewithal to consummate the sale transaction as required by Section 27(c) of the Motion, then Wincorp offers \$10,000,000.00 for the purchase of the Assets. In the event that PPFI is unable to satisfy the requirements of Section 27(c) of the Motion, or for any other reason is unwilling or unable to purchase the Assets pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Motion, then Wincorp offers \$9,500,000.00 for purchase of the Assets.

- 15. At the commencement of the auction the Trustee and the broker explained to those participating in the auction the events that had occurred during the pre-auction process, including the communication received from Pure Prairie.
- 16. At the conclusion of the explanation, the attorney for IPB asked the Trustee whether he considered Pure Prairie to be a qualified bidder under the terms of the Order Approving Bid Procedures, and the Trustee stated that he did NOT consider Pure Prairie to be a qualified bidder on the account of its failure to provide any evidence of its financial wherewithal to consummate the sale transaction which was required by the Order Approving Bid Procedures.
  - 17. The Trustee's broker then sought a bid of \$9,700,000.00.
- 18. The attorney for IPB stated that a bid of only \$9,500,000.00 was required because Pure Prairie had not, by August 9, 2021, provided the Trustee with any evidence of an ability and the financial wherewithal to consummate the purchase of the Assets, that Pure Prairie had not timely satisfied the requirements of the Order Approving Bid Procedures, and thus, as confirmed by the Trustee, Pure Prairie was not a qualified bidder.
- 19. The attorney for IPB further stated that consistent with its Objection, that IPB submits a bid in the amount of \$9,500,000.00 for the Assets.
- 20. Following discussion and the further solicitation of a higher bid, with none being received, the Trustee accepted the bid of \$9,500,000.00 from IPB subject to Court approval.
- 21. No objection or opposition was voiced by any party who attended or was represented at the auction.

- 22. The Trustee now seeks approval of the \$9,500,000.00 bid of IPB and the approval of the sale of the Assets to IPB for the sum of \$9,500,000.00.
- 23. The order approving this Motion and the Trustee's Motion to Sell should provide that any and all liens, claims, titles, encumbrances, interests, and rights asserted by Farmer Mac and Pitman Farms, and any other lienholders, will attach to the gross proceeds from the court-approved sale, in whatever order of priority that existed as of the commencement of this case, EXCEPT that Farmer Mac and Pitman Farms have agreed that:
  - a. any Real Estate Transfer Tax due pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 428A shall be released and paid from the gross sales proceeds,
  - all real estate taxes due at the time of conveyance of the Real Estate by the Trustee to the purchaser, together with real estate taxes prorated to the date of said conveyance shall be released and paid from the gross sales proceeds,
  - c. the compensation due to Heritage shall be released and paid from the gross sales proceeds. The application to employ Heritage provides the following for compensation:

For a turnkey sale, Brokers shall receive a commission of five percent (5%) of the gross sales price of the Property, provided that the commission shall be reduced to three percent (3%) in the event that the Minnesota Growers Group or Pittman (sic) Family Farms is the successful purchaser. In addition, Brokers shall advance all expenses necessary to prepare, market and conduct the turnkey sale process, and shall be entitled to \$25,000.00 for expense reimbursement (the Turnkey Allowance). In the event that a turnkey sale does not occurs, the Property will be sold by auction.

The proposed purchaser is NOT the Minnesota Growers Group.

d. a sum equal to 0.75% of the gross proceeds shall be released from the gross proceeds, and such sum shall be free and clear of any and all claims, liens, titles, interests, and rights, and the Trustee and the estate may use such sum for any and all purposes, pursuant to the provisions of Title 11, including but not limited to the payment of administrative claims and expenses and, if

- available, to the payment of various non-administrative claims (such as general unsecured claims).
- 24. The order approving this Motion and the Trustee's Motion to Sell should also contain all of the other terms and conditions requested in the Trustee's Motion to Sell.
- 25. The Trustee avers and submits that the sale to IPB proposed is this Motion is in the best interest of the estate, the creditors and the community. This is so because a sale will generate much-needed cash to enable the Trustee to administer this case, and will hopefully enable IPB to use the Assets in the operation of a business for the good and benefit of IPB, and to the betterment of the community and the public interest.
- 26. The Trustee further avers and submits that the withdrawal of Pure Prairie from the bidding process appears to the Trustee to have been done knowingly by Pure Prairie with the assistance and advice from counsel.
- 27. The Trustee further avers and submits that the auction was conducted in good faith, and that the bid of IPB was received in good faith, all with assistance and advice from counsel and the Trustee's brokers.
- 28. The Trustee further requests that the Court authorize the Trustee to return the cash deposit in the sum of \$500,000.00 received on behalf of Pure Prairie.
- 29. The Trustee requests that the Court schedule a hearing to approve this Motion and the Motion to Sell.
- 30. The Trustee requests that the order approving this Motion and the Motion to Sell provide that the 14-day stay period in F.R.B.P. 6004(h) is inapplicable. Such a provision will enable an expeditious closing, and will minimize administrative claim (such as utility bills, real estate taxes, etc.) that will be incurred and inflicted against the estate.

WHEREFORE, the Trustee respectively prays this Court, on such notice and hearing as is required, to enter and enroll an order granting the relief requested by the Trustee in this Motion and the Motion to Sell as modified by the Supplement, and for such other relief as may be just and property under the premises.

DATED: August 13, 2021

/s/ Larry S. Eide

Larry S. Eide, Trustee (AT0002317)
PO Box 1588
Mason City, Iowa 50402-1588
Telephone: 641.423.4264
Facsimile: 641.423.3145

Email: eide@pappajohnlaw.com

#### CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

The undersigned, Larry S. Eide, certifies that on August 13, 2021, he served a copy of the foregoing document on the United States Trustee, Debtor(s), attorney for Debtor(s) and other parties having requested notice pursuant to Rule 2002 electronically on all parties who receive electronic notice through CM/ECF as listed on CM/ECF's notice of electronic filing, and by ordinary United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows on all other parties:

Terry L. Gibson Wandro & Associates, P.C. 2501 Grand Avenue, Suite B Des Moines, IA 50312

Riley C. Walter Wanger Jones Helsley PC 265 E. River Park Circle, Suite 310 Fresno, CA 93720

Joseph A. Peiffer Ag & Business Legal Strategies 1350 Boyson Road, Suite B PO Box 11425 Hiawatha, IA 52233-2211 Michael P. Mallaney Shindler, Anderson, Goplerud & Weese, P.C. 5015 Grand Ridge Drive, Suite 100 West Des Moines, IA 50265-5749

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Kristina M. Stanger Nyemaster, Goode, P.C. 700 Walnut Street, Suite 1600 Des Moines, IA 50309-3899

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Steven C. Turner Baird Holm LLP 1700 Farnam Street, Ste 1500 Omaha, NE 68102

James L. Snyder Acting United States Trustee United States Federal Courthouse 111 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Box 17 Cedar Rapids, IA 52401-2101

> /s/ Larry S. Eide Larry S. Eide (AT0002317)

Case 20-00305 0862-4 Case 20-00305 Northern District of Iowa Mason City Fri Aug 13 13:35:48 CDT 2021

ARKK Food Company, Inc. c/o Kristina M. Stanger 700 Walnut Street, Suite 1600 Des Moines, IA 50309-3899

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Chris Uhlenkamp 18671 Jewel Rd. Little Falls, MN 56345

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Croell Redi-Mix, Inc. 300 50th Ave. Ct. SW Cedar Rapids, IA 52404-4408 Doc 150 Filed 08/13/21 Entered 08/13/21 13:47:38 Desc Main ARKID TO CULTURANT Page 11 of 16 dba Food Source 17 50 S. Telegraph Ave., suite 310

> ARKK Food Company, Inc. c/o Todd J. Ohlms, Proskauer Rose LLP 70 West Madison, Suite 3800 Chicago, IL 60602-4342

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Case 20-00305
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OIRE Kansas C, LLC Vice President 10350 Bren Road West Hopkins, MN 55343-9014

PNC New Markets Investment Partners, LLC c/o PNC Financial Services Group NMTC Asset Management 300 Fifth Avenue, 14th Floor Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2401

Pitman Farms c/o Abram V. Carls 115 Third Street SE, Suite 1200 Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

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Attn: Bankruptcy Unit 1304 E. Walnut Street Des Moines, IA 50319

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Pitman Family Farms, LLC 1075 North Ave. Sanger, CA 93657-3539

Pitman Farms, Inc. 1075 North Ave Sanger, CA 93657-3539 Case 20-00305 Doc 150 Filed 08/13/21 Entered 08/13/21 13:47:38 Desc Main Pitman Farms, Inc. c/o Eric J. Lam 115 Third Street SE, Suite 1200 Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Pitte Page 14 of 16 c/o Eric J. Langston 115 Third Street SE, Suite 1200 Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

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Pop's Poulty Farm Tom Poppen 33416 Grand Ave. Aplington, IA 50604-8527 Pop's Poutltry Farm, LLC 33416 Grand Ave Aplington, IA 50604-8527 Prairie's Best Farms, Inc. 68808 Fort Road Fairfax, MN 55332-6935

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Rick Weltzien c/o Michael P. Mallaney 5015 Grand Ridge Drive, Suite 100 West Des Moines, IA 50265

Rodney Boser 20645 275th Ave Pierz, MN 56364-1942 Rustic Ridge Farm Eric Glasson 12395 Stockvard Road Montfort, WI 53569

Ryder Transportation Services PO Box 96723 Chicago, IL 60693-6723

(p)U S SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION LOS ANGELES REGIONAL OFFICE 444 SOUTH FLOWER STREET 9TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES CA 90071-2934

Shane Kuehl Kuehl Poultry LLC 1550 230th Street Truman, MN 56088-2111

Simply Essentials Beef, LLC c/o Cogency Global Inc. 850 New Burton Road, Suite 201 Dover, DE 19904-5786

Simply Essentials Holdings, LLC Dennis Krause 12980 Foster, Suite 220 Overland Park, KS 66213-2691

Simply Essentials, LLC 901 North Main Street Charles City, IA 50616-2109 Kristina M. Stanger Nyemaster Goode 700 Walnut Street, Suite 1600 Des Moines, IA 50309-3800

Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP Jack Perry 80 South 8th Street 2200 IDS Center Minneapolis, MN 55402

The Best Dressed Chicken, Inc. c/o Thomas L. Flynn 6701 Westown Parkway, Suite 100 West Des Moines, IA 50266

Brandon R. Tomjack 1500 Woodmen Tower Omaha, NE 68102-2068

Tonita M. Helton 311 South Wacker Drive, Ste. 3000 Chicago, Illinois 60606-6683

Tyler Bortle N40662 Fuller Coulee Rd Whitehall, WI 54773-2006 US Bank National Association Trustee for Fed Corporation Program 1133 Rankin Street, Suite 100 Saint Paul, MN 55116-4117

United States Attorney (IRS Division) (USDA Division) 2500 Tulare Street, Suite 44041 Fresno, CA 93721-1321

Case 20-00305 Doc 150 Filed 08/13/21 Entered 08/13/21 13:47:38 Desc Main United States Department of United States Civil Trial Section, Western Region Box 683, Ben Franklin Station Washington, DC 20044-0683

United States Department of Labor 200 Constitution Ave., NW Washington, DC 20210-0002

United States Dept. of Justice U.S. Trustee Program 2500 Tulare Street Fresno, CA 93721-1321

United States Trustee United States Federal Courthouse 111 7th Avenue SE, Box 17 Cedar Rapids, IA 52401-2103

VAF Sub-CDE 53, LLC Tyler Inda PO Box 7398 Madison, WI 53707-7398

WESTERN GRAIN & MILLING 1075 NORTH AVE SANGER, CA 93657-3539

Riley C. Walter Wanger Jones Helsley 265 E. River Park Circle Ste 310 Fresno, CA 93720-1580

Wells Fargo Bank NA 300 Tri-State International, Suite 400 Lincolnshire, IL 60069-4417

Rick Weltzien N20222 State Road 93 Gailsville, WI 54630-8209 Wendi Alper-Pressman Lathrop GPM LLP 7701 Forsyth Blvd., Suite 500 Clayton, MO 63105-1875

Western Grain & Milling, Inc. c/o Eric J. Langston 115 Third St. SE, Suite 1200 Cedar Rapids, IA 52401-1222

Wisconsin Dept. of Revenue PO Box 8901 Madison, WI 53708-8901

> The preferred mailing address (p) above has been substituted for the following entity/entities as so specified by said entity/entities in a Notice of Address filed pursuant to 11 U.S.C. 342(f) and Fed.R.Bank.P. 2002 (g) (4).

Securities & Exchange Commission Attn: Bankruptcy Counsel 5670 Wilshire Blvd., Fl. 11 Los Angeles, CA 90036

The following recipients may be/have been bypassed for notice due to an undeliverable (u) or duplicate (d) address.

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(u) ARKK Food Company, Inc.

(d) ARKK Food Company, Inc. c/o Todd J. Ohlms, Proskauer Rose LLP 70 West Madison, Suite 3800 Chicago, IL 60602-4342

(u) Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation

(u) Freeborn & Peters LLP

(u) Alec Modrick

Case 20-00305 Doc 150 Filed 08/13/21 Entered 08/13/21 13:47:38 Desc Main (u) Pitman Farms, Inc. (d) Wisc Schlesset Page 16 of 16 (u) The Best Dressed Chicken, Inc. W682 County Rd E

Arcadia, WI 54612-8600

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